

John Hartwell Marable to Andrew Jackson, April 3, 1826, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN H. MARABLE¹ TO JACKSON.

¹ M. C. from Tennessee 1825–1829. In a letter of the same day James K. Polk described to Jackson less specifically the debate to which this letter gives its attention. It is in the Jackson MSS.

Washington, April 3, 1826.

Genl. Andrew Jackson,

Dear Sir, It is an old saying that no man is so far from Trade as he who has nothing to trade upon. for a similar Reason I have not until this moment addressed you, even now nothing very important is within the perview of my Knowledge. on Saturday last Mr. McDuffie Genl. Vance and Mr. Trimble of Kentucky² had some sparing in the House which grew out of Mr. McDuffies argument in Favor of the amendments to the Constitution on Friday last, Vance in debate said if he suspected any one in the House for Corruption it would be the brawling blustering and vociferous Politician and declaimer and intimating and I think expressly referring to McDuffie, which I believe he Vance does not say. Trimble also made several Inuendos which were not as the parliamentary men say tangible; but tending evidently to be construed into Charges and imputations against McDuffie. Vance in the Course of his Talk said he was peculiarly situated, that he had come from the very lowest order of society, that at the Age of 22 years he could not connect the Letters of the Alphabet and that promoted as he was by the People of Ohio when an Imputation of

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Corruption was cast on them he must and would sustain their character at the hazard of his Life.

2 George McDuffie of South Carolina, Joseph Vance of Ohio, David Trimble of Kentucky.

Mr. Trimble made a Talk somewhat in the same way and said that he had not the magnanimity to forget or forgive much less to vote for a man who had if he had not slandered at least made wonderful misrepresentations in Regard to the Kentucky Troops at the Battle of N. Orleans. McDuffie in reply said to Genl Vance he was happy to inform him he had not changed his destiny as regarded his grade in Society, that he had never recognized Vance or Trimble as gentlemen, but that he knew the great political Juggler, Poltroon and Puppy, the Secretary of State Clay, that he knew he had set on his Minions, that he knew they were the mere Poppets on the Tapis whilst the Master hand was behind working the Wires, that his Object was to give Mr. Clay his Compliments, but that if Mr. Vance or Trimble thought themselves agrieved he would for once forget that they were not Gentlemen and would attend to their Calls. The House was a perfect scene of confusion for half an hour, no one addressing the Chair, the Chairman crying out Order Order, Order, hurly burly, helter skelter, negro states and yankies. the Matter is in statu quo, it is now early in the morning, when the House meets we may hear something *interesting* on the subject. I heard Mr. Randolph make a Phillippic last week in the Senate, yet says he Mr. R. with uplifted hands, I swear to my God and Country that I will war with this administration made up of the Union of Puritans and Blacklegs. speaking of the Panama Mission he says I will prove to every Man living as plain as three times three makes nine and not ten, that the Mission was a Kentucky Cuccoos Egg laid in South America. I send you some Speeches and documents consequently it is unnecessary to say any thing about what is going on in the H. Reps. I wish if in Conformity with [your] Opinion you would advise Houston to remain in Congress, he is here bolde and energetic, it is as much as his Friends can do to keep him from coming out as he says flat footed. S. P. Carson of North Carolina is the devoted Friend of our political Faith and is more than anxious to take a chance in the Lottery as he calls it of Vance and Trimble; should be glad to hear from

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you, say my warmest Salutations to Mrs. Jackson, for yourself accept the renewed Pledge
of my highest Regard